A ROUGH KEY TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDIAN OPHIDIA.

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A word of apology is necessary in laying before the readers of this Journal the rough key to the identification of Indian snakes which is printed below. It will be obvious to everyone that the key is purely artificial, and brings into juxtaposition snakes belonging to widely separate families. The key, it will be seen, does not pretend to be scientific, but is merely an attempt at such an arrangement as may enable unskilled observers to identify specimens of Ophidia *by external characters*. If reference is made to the synopsis of families which is given by Mr. Boulenger on page 234 of his work on "Reptilia and Batrachia" in the India Office series of manuals on the Fauna of British India, it will be observed that the families are there distinguished by criteria drawn mainly from the bony structure of the head. In order to apply this synopsis to the identification of snakes, it is necessary to acquire a larger knowledge of the skeleton of a snake than is common, and it therefore seems possible that an artificial key, based on characters which any one can see and understand, may sometimes be useful.

The first principle of division which has been adopted in arranging the snakes for the purposes of the key is the number of scales round the body. On page 281 of Mr. Boulenger's work will be found a diagram showing the scaling on *Dendrophis pictus*, and from this will be apparent the manner in which the scales should be counted. The first step in applying the key to the identification of an unknown snake would, therefore, be to count the number of scales round the body. As soon as this has been ascertained, it will be found that, whereas before there were some 260 species to anyone of which the snake might belong, the range of search has now been narrowed to 30 or 40 species. The next step is to count the number of subcaudals and ventrals. This is easily done, and with the aid of these two characters combined, the area within which the snake must occur is usually made much smaller. If the snake were *Dendrophis pictus*, for example, it would be at once apparent that the snake must be looked for in one of the genera *Dryophis*, *Dendrophis* or *Zamenis*. The third test to be applied is the

shape of the pupil of the eye. This is of less service than the preceding criteria, but it at once excludes the genus *Dryophis* from consideration in the examination of the snake assumed. The fourth character adopted is the number and arrangement of upper labial shields, the positions of which are shown in the diagram on page 278 of Mr. Boulenger's work. We have already arrived at the conclusion that the snake we are examining must either be *Zamenis korros* or a *Dendrophis*. The number of upper labials in *Z. korros* being 8, and that in *Dendrophis pictus* being 9, the area of search would now be narrowed down to the genus *Dendrophis*, and as Mr. Boulenger gives easily applied keys based on external characters for the ascertainment of all species within the genera, the specific identity of the snake can, with the aid of his book, be now ascertained with certainty.

The rough key here printed does not, therefore, pretend in many cases to do more than direct the observer to the correct genus. It will often indicate the species, but in large genera, such as *Silybura*, *Simotes*, *Tropidonotus*, etc., it would have taken up too much space to give criteria sufficient for the identification of each species, and it would also have been waste of time to do so, as they are easily available in Mr. Boulenger's book, which everyone attempting to use this key should possess. The chief drawback which seems likely to attend the use of the key is the variation which undoubtedly occurs in some of the characters adopted as criteria. The number of upper labial plates, of ventrals, and subcaudals is liable to vary from that adopted in the key, and to this extent identification may be made more difficult. But it is hoped that this source of error will not be sufficiently important to deprive the key of all utility.

It should be added that where the number of scales round the middle of the body varies from the number of scales round the neck, the former has been adopted. The last two snakes in the key, the Cobra and the Hamadryad, did not lend themselves to the arrangement adopted, and being well known, have been placed by themselves at the end. In the *Typhlopidæ* the scales can hardly be said to be in so many "rows"; but the same phrase has been retained throughout for convenience. In many of the marine snakes the number of ventrals and subcaudals could not be given, but little difficulty is likely to arise over the identification of this class of snake. In conclusion, it should be once more stated that the imperfections of the key are fully recognized and that it is only presented as a possible assistance to those whose study of snakes is in an elementary stage.

	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
A.—Snakes having 13 rows of Scales round the Body.					
Calamaria pavimentata	13— 27	140—182	Round	4, 2nd and 3rd entering eye.	
„ catenata	41	187	Do.	4, „ „ „	
Xylophis perroteti	17— 38	130—147	Do.	6, 3rd and 4th „ „	
Blythia reticulata	19— 29	127—150	Vertically subelliptic ...	6, „ „ „	
Simotes planiceps	27	132	Round ...	5, 3rd entering eye.	
Trachischium fuscum	33— 42	130—162	Vertically subelliptic ...	6, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
„ guentheri ...	33— 38	132—145	Do. do. ...	6, „ „ „ ...	One postocular.
„ tenuiceps... ...	34— 39	134—138	Do. do. ...	5, „ „ „ ...	Two postoculars.
Adeniophis intestinalis	15— 28	223—273	Round	6, „ „ „ ...	Anal entire.
Callophis maculiceps	21— 32	205—247	Do.	7, „ „ „ ...	One temporal and 2 postoculars (L. 1½ ft.)
„ trimaculatus	24— 35	28—274	Do.	6, „ „ „ ...	Anal divided
„ macclellandii	25— 34	182—224	Do.	7, „ „ „ ...	Two temporals and 2 postoculars.
„ bibronii	27— 34	222—226	Do.	7, „ „ „ ...	One postocular.
„ nigrescens	33— 44	232—251	Do.	7, „ „ „ ...	One temporal and 2 postoculars (L. 3½ ft.)
Trimeresurus macrolepis ..	48— 56	134—140	Vertical	7 or 8	Head with scales and loreal pit.
Ablabes scriptus	64— 76	130—154	Round	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Hydrophobus nympha	71— 88	200—243	Vertically elliptic ...	7 (exceptionally 8 or 6), 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
„ davisonii	91—108	235—265	Do, do. ..	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Dendrelaphis caudolineatus ..	100—112	176—188	Round	9, 5th and 6th „ „	
Dendrophis caudolineolatus ..	124—128	149—161	Do.	8 or 9, 4th and 5th, or 5th and 6th entering eye.	
B.—14 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Glauconia blanfordii	Covered with uniform cycloid scales.				

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	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
C.—15 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Rhinophis sanguineus	5— 10	182—214	Eye in the ocular shield.	4th labial in contact with parietal.	Tail ending in a large convex rugose shield.
Silybura macrolepis	7— 9	128—140	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Tail ending in a small shield, bicuspid, the points side by side, or square.
Pseudoplectrurus canaricus ...	6— 13	172—188	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Tail compressed, terminal shield with two superposed single or bifid points.
Plectrurus perroteti	7— 12	152—165	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
„ davisonii	7— 12	180	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
„ guentheri	10— 12	171—175	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
„ aureus	8— 12	164—177	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
Melanophium wynadense ...	10— 15	176—185	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Tail cylindrical or slightly compressed, the terminal shield pointed or with one or two vertical ridges.
„ bilineatum ...	15— 17	188—200	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
„ punctatum ...	15— 18	184—198	Do. do. ...	„ „ „ ...	Do. do. do.
Platyplectrurus sanguineus ...	5— 9	120—150	Eye distinct from surrounding shields.	4th labial separated from parietal by a temporal.	Do. do. do.
„ trilineatus ...	8— 16	163—175			Do. do. do.
„ madurensis ...	10— 15	158—175			Do. do. do.
Aspidura trachyprocta	13— 25	120—147	Pupil round	6, 4th entering eye.	
Xylophis stenorhynchus ...	17— 31	120—131	Do.	5, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Xenopeltis unicolor	26— 31	166—193	Vertically elliptic ..	8, 4th and 5th „ „	
Simotes torquatus	27— 34	150—159	Pupil round	7, 3rd and 4th „ „	
Oligodon brevicauda	25— 29	173—195	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ sublineatus	26— 35	136—159	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ ellioti	29	152	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ templetonii	31	135	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ dorsalis	47— 51	174—177	Do.	7, „ „ „	

„ subgriseus	38— 56	160—218	Do.	7, „ „ „	
Trachischium monticola ...	28— 34	113—135	Vertically sub-elliptic ...	6, „ „ „	
„ rubriventer ...	33— 38	127—135	Do. do. ...	6, „ „ „	
Bungarus fasciatus	32— 39	200—234	Round	7, „ „ „	
„ ceylonicus	35— 40	224—235	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ caeruleus	40— 51	200—220	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ bungaroides	44— 51	220—237	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ lividus	37— 56	212—225	Do.	7, „ „ „	
Amblycephalus laevis	34— 46	150—176	Vertically elliptic ...	6, 3rd and 4th or 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
„ andersonii ...	38— 46	153—155	Do. do. ...	7, seventh very long.	
„ modestus ...	...	...	Do. do. ...	7, „ „	
„ macularius ...	51	164	Do do. ...	7, „ „	
„ monticola ...	70— 87	188—194	Do. do. ...	7, 4th or 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Trimeresurus macrolepis ...	48— 56	134—140	Vertical	7 or 8, a loreal pit.	
Elachistodon westermanni ...	59— 65	210—217	Vertically elliptic ...	6 or 7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Hydrophobus gracilis	75— 83	200—234	Do. do. ...	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Ablabes rappii	60— 75	178—195	Round	6, „ „ „	
„ calamaria	64— 76	130—154	Do.	7, „ „ „	
„ doriae	77— 80	173—187	Do.	8, 4th and 5th „ „	
„ frenatus	87— 96	151—163	Do.	7, 3rd and 4th „ „	
Pseudocyclophis walteri ..	78— 82	211—231	Vertically elliptic ...	7, „ „ „	
Dryophis perroteti	70— 82	138—140	Horizontal	8 (rarely 9), 4th and 5th entering eye.	
„ dispar	90—105	142—151	Do.	8, 5th entering eye.	
„ fronticinctus	120—151	190—195	Do.	7, or 8, 5th or 6th entering eye.	
Zamenis korros	129—145	162—177	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Length 5 feet.
Dryophis prasinus	167—203	203—234	Horizontal	9, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
„ mycterizans	140—166	172—188	Do.	8, 5th entering eye.	
„ pulverulentus... ...	154—173	182—194	Do.	8, „ „	
Dendrophis grandoculis... ...	117	174—176	Round	9, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
„ pictus	110—150	167—205	Do.	9, or 10 (rarely 8), 5th and 6th, or 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
„ subocularis	74—105	167—177	Do.	8, 5th only entering eye.	
„ bifrenalis	144—155	154—171	Do.	9, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
D.—16 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Zaocys nigromarginatus ...	123—137	193—205	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye.	

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	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
E.—17 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Rhinophis—5 species	3— 7	148—223	Eye in the ocular shield...	.....	Tail ending in a large convex rugose shield.
Silybura—18 species	6— 13	122—234	Do. do. ...	.....	Tail ending in a small square or bicuspid shield.
Oligodon—3 species	25— 37	129—162	Round	7, upper labials, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	No pterygoid teeth.
Simotes—6 species	30— 61	148—202	Do.	6, 7, or (mostly) 8 upper labials ...	Maxillary teeth 8—12, posterior ones enlarged.
Aspidura—3 species	19— 38	101—154	Do.	6, upper labials, 4th entering eye...	Maxillary teeth 20, small, equal.
Gerardia prevostiana	31— 34	146—158	Vertically sub-elliptic ...	8, „ 4th „ „	
Ancistrodon hypnale	31— 45	140—155	Do. do. ...	7 or 8, and a loreal pit.	
Azemiops feæ	42	180	Vertically elliptic ...	6, 3rd entering orbit.	
Psammodynastes pulverulentus	45— 65	146—175	Do do. ...	8, 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th entering eye.	Anal entire.
Lycodon striatus	42— 62	153—178	Do. do. ..	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal divided.
Haplocercus ceylonensis ...	42— 56	177—207	Round	7, 4th or 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Polyodontophis subpunctatus ...	47— 76	151-220(240)	Do.	9 or 10, 5th and 6th or 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
Trimeresurus trigonocephalus ...	57— 67	147—152	Vertically elliptic ..	9 or 10, and loreal pit.	
Lycodon jara, anamallensis, travancoricus, aulicus, atropurpureus.	56— 91	167—255	Do. do. ...	9 or 10, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Polyodontophis sagittarius ...	56— 70	205—228	Round	7 or 8, 3rd and 4th or 4th and 5th entering eye.	
„ bistrigatus ..	73— 75	184—186	Do.	10, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
Lycodon septentrionalis and fasciatus.	83— 90	213—214	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Polyodontophis collaris... ...	102—131	159—190	Round	9 or 10, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	

Pseudocyclophis olivaceus ...	68— 73	206—215	Vertically elliptic ...	5, 3rd entering eye.	
,, bicolor ...	58— 77	199—213	Do. do. ...		
Pseudoxenodon macrops ...	60— 75	160—173	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Tropidonotus punctulatus ...	62— 83	142—154	Do.	9 (rarely 10), 4th and 5th (or 5th and 6th) entering eye.	
Dipsas multimaculata	80—106	202—235	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Ablabes nicobariensis	87	189	Round	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Psammophis condanarus and longifrons.	75— 90	156—182	Do.	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Length 3 feet.
Zamenis mucosus	95—135	190—208	Do.	8, ,, ,, ,, ...	Length 6 feet.
Psammophis leithii	82—138	177—188	Do.	8 or 9, 4th and 5th or 5th and 6th entering eye.	
Chrysopelea ornata	118—138	204—236	Do.	Upper labials, 9 or 10, 5th and 6th or 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
Xenelaphis hexagonotus ...	140—179	185—198	Do.	8, 4th entering eye.	
F.—18 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Typhlops beddomii, porrectus, mirus, and andamanensis.	Uniform cycloid scales over body.		Eyes under shields ...	4.	
G.—19 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Cylindrophis rufus and maculatus	4— 10	185—245	Pupil round or vertically sub-elliptic.	6, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Uropeltis grandis	6— 9	129—147	Eye in the ocular shield...	.....	Tail obliquely truncated and ending in large rugose, flat shield.
Rhinophis oxyrhynchus and punctatus.	5— 7	217—246	Do. do. ...	.....	Tail not obliquely truncated and ending in large, rugose, convex shield.
Silybura grandis, nigra and broughami.	6— 12	163—230	Do. do. ...	.....	Tail obliquely truncated and ending in small square or bicuspid shield.
Distira jerdonii	...	224—238	...	5, 3rd and 4th entering eye ...	(Marine.) Tail strongly compressed.
Platurus laticaudatus	25— 45	220—240	...	7 or 8, ,, ,, ...	(Marine.) do. do.
Hypsirhina plumbea	29— 46	120—134	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	(Aquatic.)
Simotes cyclurus	38— 48	156—210	Round	8, ,, ,,	

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	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
Lytorhynchus paradoxus ...	40— 53	169—175	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 5th entering eye.	
Psammodynastes pulverulentus.	45— 65	146—175	Do. do. ...	8, 3rd, 4th and (sometimes) 5th entering eye.	
Trimeresurus gramineus, anamallensis and trigonocephalus.	44— 75	138—175	Do. do. ...	9, 10 or 12 (loreal pit).	
Tropidonotus ceylonensis ...	48— 54	133—141	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Lycodon carinatus	53— 64	188—195	Vertically elliptic ...	9, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Simotes albocinctus	53— 69	177—205	Round	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Ablabes porphyraceus	52— 76	192—215	Do.	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal divided.
Tropidonotus stolatus	50— 85	125—161	Do.	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Helicops schistosus	55— 85	129—151	Do.	8 or 9, 3rd and 4th or 4th and 5th entering eye.	(Aquatic.)
Cantoria violacea	56— 64	266—278	Vertically sub-elliptic ...	5	(Aquatic.)
Xenochrophis cerasogaster ...	60— 79	140—151	Round	9, 4th (rarely 5th) entering eye.	
Tropidonotus khasiensis, beddomii, parallelus, chrysargus, nigrocinctus, subminiatus, himalayanus, monticola, piscator, bellulus, sanctijohannis.	60—100	125—175	Do.	8 or 9 „ „ ...	Anal divided.
Coluber reticularis	65— 76	213—232	Do.	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal undivided.
Zamenis ventrimaculatus „ ladacensis „ karelinii	82—119	193—255	Do.	9, 5th and 6th „ ...	Anal divided.
Tropidonotus platyceps... ...	75—107	177—235	Do.	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	„ „
„ modestus... ...	96—122	154—168	Do.	9, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye ...	„ „
Coluber radiatus and melanurus.	85—109	193—242	Do.	9, 3rd to 6th entering eye ...	Anal undivided.
Lycodon gammiei	101 pairs.	214	Vertically elliptic ..	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Coluber prasinus	100—107	198—206	Round	9, 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
Coluber frenatus	120—121	203—204	Do.	9 (or 8), 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	
II.—20 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Cyphlops braminus	Uniform cycloid scales over body.		Eyes under shields ...	4.	

I.—21 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Cylindrophis rufus and maculatus.	4— 10	185—245	Round or vertically subelliptic.	6 upper labials, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Trimeresurus monticola	21—57 pairs.	132—156	Vertically elliptic ...	8 or 9, and loreal pit	Head covered with scales.
„ strigatus	31—49 „	136—145	Do. do. ..	9 or 10, „ „	„ „
„ jerdonii	42—67 „	164—187	Do. do. ...	7 „ „	„ „
„ gramineus ...	53—75 „	145—175	Do. do. ...	9 to 12 „ „	
Ancistrodon himalayanus ...	35—51 „	144—166	Do. do. ...	5 to 7 „ „	Head with large shields.
Platurus colubrinus	30— 45	195—240	Round	6 or 7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	Tail strongly compressed.
Distira jerdonii	...	224—238	Do.	5, 3rd and 4th „	(Marine.)
Simotes splendidus and cyclurus.	38— 48	156—210	Do.	8, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Cerberus rhynchops	49— 72	132—156	Vertically elliptic ...	9 or 10.	
Hypsirhina enhydris	60— 73	159—169	Do. do. ...	8, 4th entering eye.	
Coluber reticularis	65— 76	213—232	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal undivided.
Zamenis fasciolatus	73— 88	197—225	Do.	8 „ „ ...	Anal divided.
Coluber radiatus	85—100	224—242	Do.	8 or 9	Anal undivided.
Dipsas trigonata, barnesii, ceylonensis, gokool, hexagonotus and cyanea.	79—140	202—250	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 3rd, 4th and 5th entering eye.	
Zamenis graciliis	118—121	213—228	Round	9, 5th and 6th entering eye ...	Anal divided.
J.—22 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Typhlops leucomelas, jerdonii, theobaldianus, tenuicollis.	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eyes under shields ...	4.	
K.—23 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Trimeresurus monticola	21—57 pairs.	132—156	Vertically elliptic ...	8 or 9, and loreal pit	Head covered with scales.
„ jerdonii	42—67 „	164—187	Do. do. ...	7, „ „	„ „
„ gramineus ...	53—75 „	145—175	Do. do. ...	9 to 12 „ „	„ „
Ancistrodon himalayanus ...	35—51 „	144—166	Do. do. ...	5 to 7 „ „	Head with plates.
Vipera lebetina	42— 48	154—180	Do. do ...	10 to 12 (no loreal pit).	
Platurus colubrinus	30— 45	195—240	Round	.....	(Marine) Tail strongly compressed.
Tropidonotus plumbicolor ...	35— 50	144—160	Do.	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Coronella brachyura	46— 53	213—223	Do	8, 4th and 5th „	
Cerberus rhynchops	49— 72	132—156	Vertically elliptic ...	9 or 10.	

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	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
Zamenis fasciolatus	73— 88	197—225	Round	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal divided.
„ diadema	65—110	210—278	Do.	10 to 13	Anal entire.
Coluber helena	75— 94	220—265	Do.	9 (exceptionally 10 or 11), 5th and 6th or 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	„ „
„ hodgsonii	79— 90	233—246	Do.	8, 4th and 5th entering eye ...	Anal divided.
„ taeniurus	90—107	230—284	Do.	9, 5th and 6th „	„
L.—24 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Typhlops oatesii, diardi, bothriorhynchus.	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eyes under shields ...	4.	
M.—25 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Echis carinata	21— 40	138—185	Vertically elliptic ...	11 or 12	(Lateral scales serrated).
Fordonia leucobalia	26— 41	130—156	Do. do. ...	5, 3rd entering eye	(Aquatic.)
Platurus colubrinus	30— 45	195—240	...	...	(Marine.) Tail strongly compressed.
Tropidonotus plumbicolor ...	35— 50	144—160	Round	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.	
Hypsirhina blanfordii	45	125	Vertically elliptic ...	8, 4th entering eye.	
Vipera lebetina	42— 48	154—180	Do. do. ...	10 to 12—(scales strongly keeled).	Anal entire.
Cerberus rhynchops	49— 72	132—156	Do. do. ..	9 or 10—(scales strongly keeled).	Anal divided.
Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus	55—75 pairs.	160—182	Do. do. ...	11 to 13, with loreal pit.	
„ mucrosquamatus...	76—92 „	200—218	Do. do. ...	10 to 11, „ „	
Zamenis diadema and arenarius.	65—110	210—278	Round	10 to 13	Three or four postoculars.
Coluber helena and taeniurus ...	75—107	220—284	Do.	9 (exceptionally 10 or 11), 5 and 6, or 4th, 5th and 6th entering eye.	Two postoculars.
Dipsas forstenii	106—131	259—270	Vertically elliptic ...	8 to 11.	
Coluber oxycephalus	138—149	236—263	Round	9 or 10, 5th and 6th or 6th and 7th entering eye.	

N.—26 Rows of Scales round the Body.				
Typhlops diardi	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eyes under shields ...	4.
O.—27 Rows of Scales round the Body.				
Echis carinata	21— 40	138—185	Vertically elliptic ...	11 or 12 ... ... (Lateral scales serrated.)
Fordonia leucobalia	26— 41	130—156	Do. do. ...	5, 3rd entering eye ... ... (Aquatic.)
Tropidonotus phumbicolor ...	35— 50	144—160	Round	7, 3rd and 4th entering eye.
Vipera lebetina	42— 48	154—180	Vertically elliptic ...	10 to 12.
,, russelii	45— 60	163—172	Do. do. ...	11 or 12.
Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus...	55— 92	160—218	Do. do. ...	10 to 13—with loreal pit.
,, purpureomaculatus				
,, cantoris				
Coluber helena	75— 94	220—265	Round	9 (exceptionally 10 and 11) ... Two postoculars.
Zamenis diadema and arenarius	65—110	210—278	Do.	10 to 13 ... ... Three or four postoculars.
Dipsas forstenii	106—131	259—270	Vertically elliptic ...	8 to 11.
Coluber oxycephalus	138—149	236—263	Round	9 or 10, 5th and 6th or 6th and 7th entering eye.
P.—28 Rows of Scales round the Body.				
Typhlops acutus	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eye under shields ...	4.
Q.—29 Rows of Scales round the Body.				
Echis carinata ...	See above under 27 rows.			
Fordonia leucobalia ...				
Vipera russelii ...				
Trimeresurus cantoris ...				
Zamenis diadema and arenarius				
Hydrophis gracilis	.. ...	225—264	Round	... 6, 3rd and 4th entering eye ... (Marine.) Tail compressed.
Hypsirhina sieboldii	48— 56	147—156	Vertically elliptic	... 7 or 8, 4th entering eye.
R.—30 Rows of Scales round the Body.				
Typhlops acutus	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eyes under shields.	
Stoliczkaia khasiensis	115	210	Round	... 8, 5th and 6th entering eye.

A ROUGH KEY TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDIAN OPHIDIA—*concld.*

	No. of Subcaudals.	No. of Ventrals.	Shape of Pupil of Eye.	No. of Upper Labials.	Other Criteria.
S.—Above 30 Rows of Scales round the Body.					
Typhlops acutus 28 to 34	Body covered with uniform cycloid scales.		Eyes under shields ...	4.	
Zamenis diadema and arenarius 23 to 31	65—110	210—278	Pupil round	10 to 13, upper labials.	
Vipera russellii 27 to 31	45— 60	163—172	Vertically elliptic ...	11 or 12, do.	
Hypsirhina sieboldii 29 to 31	48— 56	147—156	Do. do. ...	7 or 8, do.	
Trimeresurus cantoris 27 to 31	55— 76	174—184	Do. do. ...	13, upper labials and loreal pit.	
Echis carinata 27 to 31	21— 40	138—185	Do. do. ...	11 or 12, upper labials, scales serrated.	
Python molurus and reticulatus 60 to 75	60—102	242—330	Vertical	11 to 13, upper labials, 7th entering eye. Of large size.	
Gongylophis conicus 40 to 47	17— 24	168--176	Do.	12 to 14, upper labials, head covered with small scales.	
Eryx johnii 51 to 65	26— 36	194—210	Do.	10 to 12 do. do. do. do.	
Chersydrus granulatus, about 100 at middle of body.	.....	.....	Tail compressed, prehensile.	Head scaled. Aglyphous representative of the Hydrophids.	
Homalopsis buccata 37 to 47 rows	70 to 85	160 to 171	Pupil vertically elliptic	Aquatic Opisthoglypha.	
Hypsirhina sieboldii 29 to 31 do.	48 to 56	147 to 156	Do. do.		
Hipistes hydrinus 35 to 42 do.	22 to 35	153 to 165	Do. do.		
Enhydris—2 sp. 33 to 42 scales	135 to 200	... ..	Scales with feeble tubercle or short keel; juxtaposed.	Marine proteroglypha. Tail compressed.	
Hydrus—1 sp. 45 to 57 do.		No ventrals	Scales hexagonal or squarish and juxtaposed.		
Hydrophis—12 sp. 29 to 50 do.					
Enhydrina—1 sp. 50 to 70 do.	284—314				
Distira—9 sp. (1 below 30) 32 to 53	224—426				
Naia tripudians	23 to 27 rows across neck. 19 to 23 „ across body.	Subcaudals 49 to 75; Ventrals 170 to 206.		Neck dilatable. Pupil round.	
Naia bungarus	19 to 21 scales across neck. 15 across middle of body.	„ 80 to 117; „ 215 to 262.			